

Curriculum Vitae

Personal details

Name: Brechje Antonet van Osch
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PhD Project: *Interface and non-interface phenomena in heritage speakers and L2 learners of Spanish: differences and similarities.* (2013 – present)

Supervisors: prof. dr. A.C.J. Hulk and dr. A.P. Sleeman

It has been argued that, for all types of bilingual populations, phenomena located at *interfaces* between linguistic domains are more problematic than single domain (e.g. purely syntactic) phenomena. The *Interface Hypothesis* (Sorace, 2011) states that this distinction can be accounted for by the fact that bilinguals, who are constantly inhibiting one of their languages, have fewer attentional resources available. Therefore, interface phenomena, which require more processing costs, will provoke problems for these speakers. Some scholars (Tsimpli & Sorace, 2006) make a further distinction between internal and external interfaces. Internal interfaces are interfaces between two *linguistic* domains, like syntax and semantics, whereas external interfaces are interfaces with a higher level of language use, like discourse/pragmatics. The latter are claimed to be particularly problematic, causing the most persistent problems, even for highly proficient bilinguals.

Another theory that tries to account for differences in vulnerability between different linguistic phenomena, is the *Vulnerability Theory*, which states that bilinguals' deviant performances problems should not be attributed to the fact that these phenomena are located at linguistic interfaces, but rather to the variability in the input for these phenomena. (de Prada Pérez, forthcoming)

In this project, which started in September 2013, I am looking at two different bilinguals groups, namely *heritage speakers* and *second language learners* of Spanish (of similar proficiency) who have Dutch as their dominant language. I test constructions that have purely syntactic constraints as well as semantic and discourse constraints, depending on the particular use of the constructions, like for instance Spanish mood in different contexts, and Spanish subject-verb word order. This way I try to distinguish between different types of knowledge that speakers may or may not possess about these phenomena in an effort to try to find independent evidence for either the Interface Hypothesis or the Vulnerability Hypothesis. I use comprehension as well as production tasks, to be able to determine whether, if problems occur, these can be claimed to be representational in nature or whether we are dealing with mere processing deficits.

Research interests

Different types of bilingualism: Child bilingualism, heritage language speakers, second language acquisition, and the differences and similarities between these types of bilingualism. The focus of my research is on linguistic interfaces and whether these are more vulnerable for bilinguals speakers. Furthermore, I have an interest in experimental psycholinguistics.

Published papers

van Osch, B., Hulk, A., Sleeman, P. & Irizarri van Suchtelen, P. (2014) Gender agreement in interface contexts in the oral production of heritage speakers of Spanish in the Netherlands. *Linguistics in the Netherlands*, 31, 93-106.

Presentations

Interface and non-interface phenomena in heritage speakers and L2 learners of Spanish: Differences and similarities – NAP-dag, University of Amsterdam, 01-11 2013.

Gender agreement in heritage Spanish: a matter of performance? (second author; presentation by Pablo Irizarri van Suchtelen) – Tin-dag, Radboud University Leiden, 01-02-2014.

Gender agreement in interface contexts in the oral production of Spanish heritage speakers in the Netherlands (first author and presenter) – Tin-dag, Radboud University Leiden, 01-02-2014.

(co-authors: Aafke Hulk, Petra Sleeman and Pablo Irizarri van Suchtelen)

Gender agreement in interface contexts in the oral production of Spanish heritage speakers in the Netherlands (first author and presenter) – National Heritage Language Research Centre Conference at UCLA, 07-03-2014.

(co-authors: Aafke Hulk, Petra Sleeman and Pablo Irizarri van Suchtelen)

Gender agreement in interface contexts in the oral production of Spanish heritage speakers in the Netherlands (first author and presenter) – Linguistic Symposium for Romance Languages (LSRL) at UWO, London, Canada, 05-04-2014.

(co-authors Aafke Hulk, Petra Sleeman and Pablo Irizarri van Suchtelen)

Heritage speakers' knowledge of Spanish mood: Interfaces or variability (first author and presenter) – Bilingualism in the Hispanic and Lusophone World (BHL) at Leiden University, 15-01-2015.

(co-authors Aafke Hulk, Petra Sleeman and Suzanne Aalberse)

Teaching experience **Guest lecturer** within the course “Lengua y Estructura”, a second year bachelor course in the Spanish program at the University of Amsterdam.

Teacher Dutch as a second language

Joost Weet Het Dutch courses – Amsterdam
2011

Teacher Spanish as a second language

Private lessons with small groups of students
2011 – 2013

Relevant work experience

Student-assistant for Katerina Chladkova (University of Amsterdam)
Helping with EEG experiments: preparing participants and applying the materials.
2012 – 2013

Student-assistant for prof. dr. Aafke Hulk and dr. Petra Sleeman (University of Amsterdam)
Transcribing Dutch-French bilingual children's data according to the CHILDES conventions.
2012 - 2013

Student-assistant for dr. Paola Escudero (University of Amsterdam)
Helping with EEG experiments: preparing participants and applying the materials.
2012

Other activities **Organizer of Going Romance**, an international conference on Romance languages – University of Amsterdam, 28-30 November, 2013)

Education **RMA (Research Master) Linguistics** (cum laude)
University of Amsterdam
2011 - 2013
MA thesis: *Gender Agreement in Predication and Anaphoric Contexts in Spanish Heritage speakers in the Netherlands* Supervisors: prof. dr. A.C.J Hulk and dr. A.P. Sleeman. Grade: 8,5

Pre-master Linguistics
University of Amsterdam
2010 – 2011

BA Spanish Language and Culture (cum laude)
University of Amsterdam
2005 – 2009
BA thesis: *Taboo words in use in the language of adolescents in Mexico City*. Supervisor: Dr. Otto Zwartjes.

Foreign exchange program
University of Puebla, México
(UDLAP) 2007 – 2008 (1 semester)

Languages	Dutch	Native speaker
	English	Advanced
	Spanish	Advanced
	French	Intermediate
	German	Intermediate

Skills Word, Excel, SPSS, Powerpoint, Praat, CHAT (CHILDES transcription method), CLAN (CHILDES search function), E-prime, experience with EEG experiments, teaching experience.